

SETAC Europe 28th Annual Meeting “Responsible and Innovative Research for Environmental Quality”

Rome ‘la citta eterna’ in Italy held the SETAC Europe 28th Annual Meeting from 13th to 17th May 2018 at the Rome Convention Centre La Nuvola.

This year SETAC Europe gathered between 2,000 and 2,500 scientists, assessors, regulators and managers from academia, business and government, representing an average of 60 countries to discuss multidisciplinary approaches to examine the impacts of stressors, chemicals, and technology on the environment. The meeting congregated a total of 95 parallel sessions, 549 Platform Presentations, 58 Exhibitors, 77 Poster Corner presentations and 1,645 Poster Presentations.

The opening of the 28th Annual Meeting was on Sunday, starting with several training Courses and Interest Group Symposia. As in previous years, the SETAC dedicated an important part of the congress to young scientists. The first event for students was the Mentorship Programme just before the Opening Ceremony. In this ceremony, Roger Strand, professor at the University of Bergen, Norway, was the keynote speaker with a plenary lecture titled ‘Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI): A Path Towards Sustainability?’ After that, Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening took place.

On Monday, the first Morning Platform Session included 10 parallel presentations with a Special Session dedicated to ‘Safeguard and Conservation of Cultural’. The issues of this session were assorted, such as pesticides fate and exposure, hydrophobic chemicals, uncertainty in translating LCA results, emerging contaminants, wildlife ecotoxicology, ERA of biocides and veterinary medicines, nano-materials fate and toxicity effects and ERA of oil spills and fish models. The second Morning Platform Session addressed topics as LCI methods developments, ERA in time and space, and other Special Session called ‘Sustainable Development Goals: The Global Context Defining the Agenda for Government, Business and Academia’. As every day, during coffee and lunch break and during Poster Social Session in the afternoon there was time to present and visit more than 400 posters at Exhibition Hall. During lunch break, a Student Mentor Lunch was also held in Workshop Room. The Platform Session Afternoon dealt with topics as mercury biogeosciences, bioavailability organic chemicals, inventories of emissions and resources for environmental footprints, mechanistic effect modelling for ERA, micro and nanoplastics detection and animal alternatives for ecotoxicity assessments. The Special Session was dedicated to ‘Migratory Bird species at Risk: the Role of

Pesticides and Other Chemicals'. The keynote speaker was Bernhard Url, Executive Director from European Food Safety Authority (Italy), who gave a great conference about 'Food Safety in a Complex Changing World'.

On Tuesday, 10 parallel sessions including 22 Platform Sessions took place in Nuvola Congress Centre. The sessions that encompassed more speakers over the day were those dedicated to 'The Added Value of Using Invertebrate species in Ecotoxicology', 'Air Pollution, Biomonitoring and Human Health', 'Microplastics in Freshwater and Terrestrial Systems', 'Environmental Effects of Metals' and 'Integrating Life Cycle Approaches Towards a Sustainable Circular Economy'. The Special Session was dedicated to 'Solutions for Emerging Pollutants: Towards a Holistic Chemical Quality Status Assessment in European Freshwater Resources'. Also, there were parallel Poster Presentations and Poster Corners in the Exhibition Hall up to the end of the day, where 428 posters and 21 corner posters could be visited. The Student Lunch Seminar was conducted by Dr. Agnieszka Hunka from Halmstad University, Sweden, who gave a talk based on her interdisciplinary point of view on (bio)technology acceptance, risk communication and risk/uncertainty perception in the risk assessment of chemicals. The keynote speaker was Eugenia Dogliotti from the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy), who presented a conference about 'Innovative Research issues in Environmental Mutagenesis'. The day finished with another event dedicated to students, the Student Party, celebrated in Locanda Atlantide.

Wednesday held 22 Platform Sessions, 434 Posters Presentations and 28 Poster Corners. Many of the sessions were focused on Environmental Risk Assessment from different perspectives as quality of toxicity tests, management of soil and sediments material, pharmaceuticals and metabolites, and aquaculture 'Blue Revolution'. Other interesting sessions addressed questions about 'Ecological Risks Under Complex, Multiple-Stressor Threat Scenarios' that befallen all day with 18 Platform Presentations, 'Pbt/Vpvt and Pmt/Vpvm Substances and Non-Extractable Residues (Ner): Scientific Strategies, Analytical Challenges and Regulatory Issues', 'Systems ecotoxicology: Application of OMICs', 'Analysis and Fate of Emerging Contaminants in Soils, Water and Plants Under Water Scarcity', 'LCA and Beyond – Integrating Sustainability and/or Other Dimensions to Improve Decision Support'. The keynote speaker was Jason Snape from AstraZeneca Global Safety (UK), who spoke about 'The Environmental Dimension of Antimicrobial Resistance: Assessing and Managing the Risks of Anti-Infectives'. The Special Session highlighted two different matters 'Plastics in the Mediterranean Sea' and 'Balance the Inevitability and Hazard of Chemicals in Society'. Also other satellite events took place along the day. Early in the morning students and companies met each other to discuss

job opportunities in the 'Job Event'. 'Setac Europe General Assembly' and 'Students Assembly' were held during afternoon. The day finished with a fantastic Social Dinner with Ancient Rome guided tour.

Thursday was the last day of the congress and only the Morning Platform Presentations with 15 sessions were accomplished. The Special Session called 'Environmental Specimen Banks in Research and Regulation for a Better Environmental Quality' included 5 speakers that discussed interdisciplinary applications for Environmental Specimen Banks samples. Many issues were discussed on Thursday, the session focused on 'Hazard and Exposure Assessment of Chemical Mixtures: Steps Towards Increasing the Realism of Chemical Risk Assessment' raised a great interest among the audience. The SETAC Europe 28th Annual Meeting finished with a Farewell Reception and the Young Scientist Awards. The winner of Young Scientist Platform Presentation Award was Michael Bertram from Monash University (Australia) with the conference about 'Exposure to the widespread androgenic steroid 17 β -trenbolone alters behavior in fish'.

María Jesús Andrés Costa (CIDE-Universitat de València)